



**Axbridge Rural District
Council.**

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

——Sanitary Inspector——

For 1914.

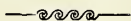




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AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For 1914.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Axbridge
Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The geographical features of the district are chiefly limestone, sandstone in a few localities, peat in the lower marshes, and clay. The water in the lowlands near the sea being brackish, where shallow wells are dug, as in the North Marsh.

The occupation is agricultural, dairy farming being the chief business. Much cheese is made and milk sent to towns, both by individual farmers and from depots, or those farmers who contract and collect milk from small dairies.

The area is 85,931 acres.

Population :—

24,965 ... Census 1891

23,744 ... Census 1910

23,068 ... Census 1911

The decrease being noticeable.

Inhabited houses, 5,934; Persons per house, 4.

The outdoor relief charge amounted to £3,969 during the year ending 30th September, 1914, and £181 was paid for persons obtaining relief in other Unions.

The indoor Workhouse maintenance charge was £2,122, including drugs, medicines, etc.

WATER SUPPLY.

South
Marsh.

The South Marsh supply, owned by the Rural District Council, arises from springs at Cross, extending over an acre, through the limestone strata. The springs are fenced in, and not likely to be contaminated by any evident cause.

The minimum daily yield is not known, but is over 100,000 gallons a day, over 25 gallons a head per diem; no shortage has ever occurred. This is daily pumped to a reservoir on the adjacent hill, the pumps being in duplicate. The reservoir is of brick and cement with a galvanised iron roof, holding 150,000 gallons. No purification process has been necessary.

Capital cost of provision in first place (distributed over contributory places):—

			£
Badgworth	...	...	1,202
Biddisham	...	...	442
East Brent	...	...	2,985
Lympsham	...	...	1,791
Mark	...	...	3,200
Weare	...	...	1,380
			<hr/>
			11,000

Capital cost of extension (distributed over contributory places):—

			£
Badgworth	...	...	286
Biddisham	...	...	276
*Burnham Without	...	...	2,608
East Brent	...	...	1,668
Lympsham	...	...	1,085
Mark	...	...	3,219
Weare	...	...	1,720
			<hr/>
			10,862

* This Parish is an addition to the scheme—four years after originally initiated.

Working expenses for year (taken from last published Statement of Accounts):

			£
Badgworth	...	...	79
Biddisham	...	...	27
Burnham Without	...	...	192
East Brent	...	...	194
Lympsham	...	...	131
Mark	...	...	207
Weare	...	...	86
			<hr/>
			916

The cost is distributed as a rate on those parishes supplied by this water. The parishes of Badgworth, population 245; Biddisham, population 117; Burnham Without, population 309; East Brent, population 638; Lympsham, population 405; Mark, population 915; Weare, population 390—Total 3,029—are supplied, except for a few outlying cottages; also a few houses in Brent Knoll, Compton Bishop and Allerton, supplied by meter.

The water is excellent—the last analysis was good, though a somewhat “hard” water.

Cheddar.

The Cheddar Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council, arises from springs on Charterhouse, percolating through the old red sandstone, in an isolated spot and free from any possible source of contamination, being adequately protected.

The yield is 220,000 gallons a day as a minimum quantity. It runs by gravitation to a reservoir in the cliff of 90,000 gallons capacity, and thence by pipes to a reservoir at Brent Knoll of 180,000 gallons capacity, for the supply of the Urban District of Highbridge. Axbridge, Cheddar, Highbridge, and a few houses in the higher part of Compton Bishop are also supplied from this source en route. No pumping is required at any point. The supply is superabundant for the population, Highbridge being allowed 60,000 a day—over 25 gallons per head. No shortage has ever occurred. The water is excellent in quality with no hardness, and no purification process is required; the last analysis was good.

Capital Cost:—

				£
Cheddar	...	...	...	8,380
Axbridge	...	...	...	1,425
Highbridge	...	...	...	*3,495

Amount of Loan ... £13,300

* This £3,495 is for the proportion of works constructed in the parish of Cheddar on behalf of Highbridge. In addition to the £3,495, Highbridge has borrowed money for works of water supply **within the area of the Urban District.**

Working expenses £90 for year (this taken from last published Statement of Accounts).

The cost is distributed over Highbridge, population 2,339; Cheddar, population 1,974; and Axbridge, population 1008; a few houses in Compton Bishop pay a special rate charged by meter.

Winscombe.

The Winscombe and Shipham Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council of Axbridge, arises from springs at Rowberrow Bottom, from the sandstone formation, of about an acre in area, any contamination being unlikely. The yield was estimated at 33,000 gallons per diem before the new well of uncertain capacity was sunk a year ago. The feed is by gravitation. The Reservoir is of brick and concreted, of 60,000 gallons capacity, roofed in with an arch of brick.

Capital cost of provision in first place (amount of loan):—

				£
Winscombe	...	...		3,640
Shiphams	...	...		610

Capital cost of extensions:—

				£
Winscombe	...	...		1,463
Shiphams	...	...		628

Working expenses £495 for year (this taken from last published Statement of Accounts).

The cost is distributed as a rate on the parishes of Shipham, population 379, and Winscombe, population 1,542, and on some houses in Churchill by meter; Rowberrow is exempt, the water being taken from that area.

The amount available is about 15 gallons a day per head. In dry summers there is a serious shortage, Shipham being especially affected. No purification process is carried out. A good, new well has been sunk to add to the supply, but the district is an increasing one, and largely residential, using much water for baths, etc. New houses are being built, and the need for an adequate supply for future requirements is becoming very evident. An effort should be made to acquire more water-bearing land as soon as possible.

Areas
supplied.

Winscombe, population 1,542; Shipham, population 359; Rowberrow, population 78; and a small portion of Churchill.

The composition of the water is good and is not hard, though occasionally turbid; the last analysis was good.

Blagdon.

Name,
owners and
nature.

The Blagdon Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council, Axbridge, arises from springs at Blagdon, known as the Ellick Springs, from the old red sandstone. They are well protected and not liable to any contamination.

Engineering
Points.

The yield per diem is 30,000 gallons. It is a gravitation scheme, with a reservoir of 45,000 gallons capacity, of brick and cement, roofed in.

Amount available per head, 30 gallons; no shortage being known. No purification process is used.

Capital cost of provision in first place (amount of loan) £6,700.

Capital cost of extensions, i.e., Aldwick, etc., £650.

Working expenses £127 for year (this taken from last published Statement of Accounts).

There is no contributory places beyond the parish of Blagdon.

All the area of Blagdon, population 915, is supplied, except a few houses where the levels are prohibitory.

The water is excellent; the last analysis was good.

North
Marsh.

The North Marsh scheme is in progress, and a supply is in sight for Banwell, population 1,409;

Puxton, population 166; Wick St. Lawrence, population 197; and part of Congresbury, population 1,116. Wrington and Redhill, population 1,367, not being included in this scheme, for which two places further provision will doubtless be made. Redhill, being on high ground, is dependent on rain water to a great extent. A supply of good water for the North Marsh is urgently wanted. Being a flat, low-lying district where only surface or brackish water can be obtained locally, much difficulty has arisen in obtaining a supply, and the expense great.

Worle.

Worle, population 1,498, is now ready to be supplied with the Weston Water supply, the pipes being laid, but as yet this advantage has not been utilised by many of the house owners, though very desirable to do so. Water is much needed in the higher parts of Worle, but is at their doors.

The analysis of three samples of water taken from wells in Worle were not good, while three others were fairly satisfactory.

Christon
and
Loxton

Christon, population 60, and Loxton, population 128, are supplied by two landowners from springs in the same area, and distributed through these parishes. The water is good and plentiful, and is most useful. The farms and cottages are supplied, also two standpipes erected at Loxton.

Brent
Knoll.

The greater part of Brent Knoll, population 803, is supplied with Burnham Water, through pipes owned by Mr. Northcote, being a private enterprise. It is an excellent water.

Berrow.

Berrow, population 580, and Brean, population 111, are supplied from Burnham through the Burnham Water Company, which comes from Winscombe springs and piped to Burnham. It is an excellent water.

The rest of the district is supplied by wells, surface pits, or rain water, as at Redhill.

The water supplies have no plumbo or solvent action, and cases of lead poisoning are not frequent, now that more care is taken with the taps, storage, and manufacture of cider; brass, pewter and galvanized vessels being abandoned.

Water
Analyses.

Analyses of water are usually Bacteriological ones, nine of such were taken—five were unsatisfactory, four were good.

Wells are the chief source of water supply for domestic use, and though there has been little serious disease in the district throughout the year 1914, many of them should be better protected from surface pollution with a collar six to twelve inches high above ground of well-built masonry and cement, the ground earth dug away for five feet deep at least around every well, and the space filled in with an impervious layer of cement or concrete. By so doing, any surface pollution would have to filter through at least five feet of soil before gaining access to the well.

Sewers
and
Drainage.

Wrighton has a drainage system of filtration beds. The efforts of the Engineer seem to have overcome the trouble with the sewers which are now periodically inspected.

Efficient sewers exist in Cheddar, Axbridge and Uphill respectively. Two lengths of sewer were laid at Cheddar 100 yards long and 50 yards long, also two lengths of 100 yards and 40 yards at Wedmore, also 100 yards at Congresbury. For the most part privies and cesspits are in general use that often overflow into a ditch adjacent. No privy or cesspit should empty direct into a ditch; the overflow should filter through at least three

yards of soil, gravel, clinkers, or broken stone, as eventually the water is drank by cattle, and even used for domestic purposes.

Part of Berrow is now being connected with the Burnham Sewer.

The streams and rhynes are the main drainage of the district, which eventually find their way into the River Axe, discharging at Uphill into the sea. Privies with cesspits are universal, though effort is being made to supplant them with earth closets. In some places with a water supply, water-flushed W.C.'s are in use.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed by the individual householder, and the cesspits emptied periodically in like manner.

Milk Supply.

Dairy work is the chief industry of the district. The procedures are usually carried out with increasing care. All the churns are scalded out with boiling water, often with steam, and the milk is excellent in quality, as I often personally test it by drinking it in my numerous inspections and visits. The milk that is sent away to towns is all carefully strained and cooled by special water-cooled apparatus the curd that is complained of by the consumers too often gets in in transit and at the retailers.

The cows and cowsheds are kept fairly clean, though hardly up to the continental or model standard, and "the cow is a dirty animal." Grooming the cows and sheds means labour—the grave present-day difficulty in most callings of agriculture—still the question of cleanliness cannot too strongly or too often be impressed on those who attend to cowsheds and dairies, and upon milkers especially. The health of the animals in

the locality is usually good; being a very mild area they are out most of the winter months, and tuberculosis is apparently not so common as in some districts.

In case of infectious disease in a dairy farm the milk is all sent off from the field of milking, and is not allowed to enter the premises; dairy work is temporary stopped and the milk sold forthwith. By these stringent measures disease is very materially stopped from spreading, and our thanks are due to the farmers who always acquiesce in this procedure without hesitation, notwithstanding the loss and inconvenience it causes.

The pig industry is satisfactorily carried out in a cleanly efficient manner; very few complaints having arisen, which are speedily arranged. No cases of anthrax have occurred, and owing to the stringent precautions no foot and mouth disease occurred.

There are over 490 persons entered on the register; also six milk depots on the register. The register is complete, though it is constantly changing, as the farmers cease to sell milk at various periods, according to demand, supply, and personal convenience, and time's price, and where farms change hands.

Advice is constantly given and suggestions made, and the conditions are improving both as regards method, buildings, and sanitation, though there is much room for improvement and progress.

The sanitary inspections have been numerous, viz:—1,362; many household defects were remedied, e.g., sinks, w.c.s', rubbish heaps, ventilation defects, dirty rooms, bedding furniture, and bad

floors. Lodging houses are periodically inspected, but no cellar dwellings or offensive trades exist in the district.

Food. We have had little or no trouble with bad meat or unsound food. No outbreaks or serious illness from food poisoning have occurred.

Slaughter-houses. Slaughter houses are 32 in number, of which 16 are licensed; and constant inspections (198) made. There are bye-laws for eight parishes only in this Union. All have good drainage and water supply.

Factories and Workshops. Factories' and Workshops' Report appended.

Bakehouses. Bakehouses number 31. None are underground; all are well conducted.

Schools. The sanitary condition of the schools is good, and the water supply and conveniences for washing in most cases adequate. All cases of absence from infectious disease are reported by the schoolmaster or mistress to the Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer, and the cases excluded from school.

Many cases of adenoid disease, bad teeth, defective eyesight and hearing have been attended to.

Housing. Considerable progress has been made during the year with the very difficult task of carrying out the Housing Act of 1909. Under the Housing Act eight houses in the Lippiatt, Cheddar, were condemned as unfit for habitation. On a second inspection in the winter they were proved to be very damp. They have no through ventilation, and are banked against a wall of rock. It was agreed, with the Chief Medical Officer, that no process short of re-construction could make these

houses habitably dry; and that the evident minor repairs to the windows, roofs, doors, floors, etc., would be waste of money and labour, in view of the absence of any damp courses, and their proximity to the high rocks at the back of them.

Some houses in Mark have been repaired after closing orders had been made. The remainder of the twelve new houses at Winscombe and six at Sandford are now practically completed.

It is also questionable if houses in the marshes and turf moors are fit for habitation that are dry and comfortable in the summer, but are periodically flooded in the winter and in times of heavy rainfall. There is no doubt that new cottages are required for the working classes, and that they will be greatly appreciated, little or any loss being incurred, as a small garden will be an additional source of income. Care will naturally be taken that such be for the working-class only, and not for town people who like to have a little cottage in the country for week-end visits.

The want of new cottages should be carefully considered by every Parish Council, who naturally know the requirements of their own area, and their demands and statements laid before the District Council to carry out the Act.

New cottages for the working-classes are required in the country with at least three bedrooms, a living-room, kitchen, and scullery, built with a high step up from the ground level, and wooden floors in the rooms. Happily the New Building Bye-laws will prevent, at last, more ill-built insanitary houses, without damp courses and shooting, being erected for the future.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1909, has been 197. Fourteen closing orders were made, four of which were repaired and made fit for habitation.

There is a large steam laundry at Worle, and two small shirt and washing factories at Cheddar. All are well conducted and inspected.

All other industries are on a small scale, employing a few hands only.

No register is provided, but the bakehouses, butchers and sausage makers, dressmakers, basket and boot makers, tailors, saddlers, washing people, carpenters and coach builders, smiths, and brewers are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June. Dairy work is the chief industry. All the bakehouses have been inspected, and are generally satisfactory. There are no underground bakehouses in the district; all are cleaned and white-limed according to statute.

All workshops in the district have been periodically inspected; also the home workers. No cases of infectious disease have originated therefrom.

The outworkers are numerous, and vary in number from day to day according to supply, as so many do dressmaking and sewing and washing when the work is forthcoming.

There is a shirt factory at Cheddar which sends out work—sewing and laundry work—from time to time—but it is irregular and on quite a small scale.

No Local Government Board enquiries have been held during the year.

The work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Lady Health Visitors, who have had much experience of tuberculosis and general sanitary work, all acting under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

All throat swabs of suspicious diphtheritic aspect, sputa from possible and probable tuberculosis cases and blood specimens, water analyses, chemical and bacteriological, are sent to the experts at the Public Health Laboratory at Weston-super-Mare, whose decisions have been most accurate and of the utmost value and assistance.

There is no hospital for infectious diseases—only two tents and a moveable wood hut.

Bye-laws are in force for eight parishes. slaughterhouses are thereby included. It would be well if such were adopted for the whole Union, though satisfactory and well conducted and constantly inspected. Bye-laws for new buildings are also in force throughout the district.

Scarlatina.

Forty-three cases were reported; these were all of a sporadic and mild type—imported cases. No deaths were reported, and no spreading occurred in any locality but Cheddar, which was soon checked. In all cases any milk business was confined to sending off milk from the field of milking, and no dairy work was conducted on the premises. The houses were visited, precautions were enjoined, and pamphlets of advice given, and the schools notified. An outbreak of a mild type occurred at Cheddar, and the schools were closed.

On the termination of the disease the rooms were thoroughly disinfected, all linen washed and boiled, while the bedding, blankets, and pillows were placed in the super-heated steam disinfecter.

Diphtheria.

There have been 44 cases notified during the year, with one death, many of a mild, sporadic type, serious on account of this lightness of the symptoms, because it is difficult for the public to believe that such cases can be the causes of dangerous and fatal attacks in more susceptible subjects with whom they come in contact. Cultures of all suspected throats have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, to whom our best thanks are due for the rapidity and accuracy of their investigation, without which in obscure and mild cases a correct diagnosis could scarcely be arrived at.

Antitoxin has been distributed free of charge, *ad lib*, to all the Poor Law Medical Officers, which bounty has been much appreciated, and it has been used freely and promptly with much success. Several carriers have been detected, isolated, and treated until rendered innocuous, and precautions carefully carried out.

At the termination of cases, disinfection is carried out, as in cases of scarlatina.

Measles
and
Mumps.
Whooping
Cough.

The above diseases are not notifiable, but were reported as they arose to the County Medical Officer, and exclusion notes were issued to the schools.

Cheddar schools were closed for Scarlatina and Churchill for Influenza.

One case of acute Poliomyelitis was notified of mild type, and the neuritis and weakness rapidly cleared up.

The preventive measures were adopted in Diphtheria, regarding the discharges as a possible means of spreading the malady. These were disinfected or burnt, particular care being enjoined

as to the nasal and oral secretions, avoidance of kissing, mouth toys, pencils, etc., and orders given to boil cups, spoons, and feeding utensils after use, and rag or paper handkerchiefs carefully burnt.

Isolation Hospital.

There is none, though a large district of over 23,000.

If the first cases could be immediately removed to an infectious hospital, much anxiety and loss of business would be saved, for in a district where dairy work is so universal an infectious case dislocates the whole business for many weeks, with serious loss.

Disinfection.

All articles for disinfection are sent to the steam disinfector at Worle Steam Laundry, who fetch and return the same by special conveyance from all infectious cases—scarlatina, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. In tuberculosis, the rooms occupied are disinfected with sulphur and Formalin fumigation, the floors and walls washed with Izal, the rooms papered or coloured, and ceilings whitewashed.

Notifications of tuberculosis are reported to the Health Department in Weston-super-Mare, and the place visited by the Health Visitors Inspector, or myself. Leaflets of advice are distributed and disinfectants and sputum bottles provided, or other articles requisite for personal sanitation.

Acts.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, have been adopted in this district.

Births.

From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year there were 332 births, against 462 last year: males 178, females 154. Seven males and six females were illegitimate; giving a rate of 14.3 in the population of 23,068.

Deaths.

The deaths during 1914 numbered 346, giving a rate of the population of 23,068 of 15.11; of these 37 were strangers registered in the district, and 32 were residents not registered in the district.

Deaths under 1 year numbered	...	...	29
„ from 1 to 2 years numbered	...	...	8
„ „ 2 to 5 „ „	...	...	1
„ „ 5 to 15 „ „	...	...	*9
„ „ 15 to 25 „ „	...	...	†10
„ „ 25 to 45 „ „	...	...	‡36
„ „ 45 to 65 „ „	...	...	70
„ „ 65 upwards „ „	...	...	183

*5 of Tuberculosis. †6 of Tuberculosis.

‡13 of Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Zymotic Disease ... 5.

Measles	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2

Deaths from Phthisis	...	...	...	26
„ „ Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	5
„ „ Other Tuberculous Disease	...	...	...	5
„ „ Cancer	...	...	...	36

Notified Infectious Disease, 227 :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	44
Erysipelas	...	...	...	18
Scarlatina	...	...	...	43
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	111
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	8
Enteric	...	...	...	1

Numerous inspections have been made in the district, and all insanitary conditions and nuisances abated as soon as they were discovered or reported, while those localities in which diseases appeared received special attention, and its sanitation investigated and improved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. LECHE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 1.
Vital Statistics of whole District during 1914 and previous years.
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents not registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	23,126	488	488	20.5	329	13.6	..	..	33	67.4	329	13.6
1910	23,126	466	466	19.	287	11.	..	..	30	64.3	287	11.
1911	23,068	467	467	19.0	287	11.0	8	15	40	81.1	291	11.0
1912	23,068	446	441	19.3	318	13.8	14	17	29	61.9	321	13.8
1913	23,068	462	457	19.8	310	13.4	7	19	34	75.5	322	14.
1914	23,068	332	329	14.3	351	15.4	37	32	29	88.1	346	15.0

Area of District in acres (land and inland water	.. ..	{ 85,931
	.. ..	{ 2,3068
	.. ..	{ 5,934
	.. ..	{ 4

Total population at all ages
Number of inhabited houses
Average number of persons per house

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.
AXBRIDGE DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Axbridge	W.S.M.	Burnham	Blagdon
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upw'rds.				
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup)	44	..	12	9	9	11	3	..	26	6	5	7
Erysipelas	18	..	..	..	1	7	9	1	6	4	5	3
Scarlet fever	43	..	4	28	10	..	1	..	14	8	4	17
Enteric fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Poliomyelitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	111	..	..	17	39	43	9	3	47	26	15	23
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	..	1	3	1	1	2	..	4	3	1	..
Totals	227	..	18	57	61	63	24	4	97	48	30	52

Removed to Hospital—None.

Isolation Hospital—Flax Bourton, Long Ashton Rural District Council (12 beds); Ham Green Hospital, near
 Bristol, under Bristol Sanitary Authority; Sanatoria—Cranham Lodge, nr. Stroud, Glos.; Engel Home, Cheddar.

TABLE IV.
 Infantile Mortality during the Year 1913. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months
 under One Year of Age.
 AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Pneumonia, all forms	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	3	..	6
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Atelectasis ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Congenital Malforma- tion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth ..	1	1	3	..	5	..	..	..	1	1
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..	1	3	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	5
	5	5	3	..	13	4	3	4	5	29

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 319; illegitimate, 13.

Nett Deaths in the year—illegitimate infants, 29.

R. A. FULLER, *Medical Officer of Health.*

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1914, for the Rural District of Axbridge.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Housework.

1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notice	Prosecutions
Factories	40	..	..
(including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	108	..	..
(including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces "	129	..	..
Homeworkers' Premises ..			
Total	277	..	..

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN ABOVE.

Nil.

3—HOME WORK.

Wearing Apparel: Lists sent twice a year, 2; out-workers, 18:
Contractors, 2.

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

No Register is provided, but the Bakehouses, Butchers and Sausage Makers, Dressmakers, Basket and Bootmakers, Tailors, Saddlers, Working People, Carpenters and Coach Builders, Smiths, Motor Depots, Brewers, are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses, employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June.

Dairy work is the chief industry.

A. V. LECHE,

February, 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.

Phthisis: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

	ST. MICHAEL'S HOME	ENGEL HOME, CHEDDAR
Classes for which accommodation is provided :		
(a) Early cases .. ..	..	..
(b) Intermediate cases ..	25	17
(c) Advanced cases	16	..
By whom provided	Endowed by the late Mrs. W. Gibbs	Payments and donations
Where situated	Cheddar	Cheddar
Total number of Beds ..	41	17
How are patients selected? ..	By Application	By Application
Are the patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer? ..	No	No
What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds?	None	8/-, 15/-, 20/- per week
Do the Sanitary Authority use : (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small - pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis? ..	No, being none	No, being none
Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium? ..	No	No
Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable Open-air Shelters or Tents?	No	No

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary.
There is one at Weston-super-Mare.

A. V. LECHE,

February, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

1. Sanitary District	Axbridge
2. New Houses erected during 1914	55
3. Number of Houses inspected during 1913, under the Housing Act, 1909. (This must NOT include re-inspections of houses previously inspected)	197
4. Results of inspections of the fresh houses inspected during 1914, classified as follows :	
(a) Number reported as unfit for human habitation	14
(b) Number defective, but with defects not sufficient to report as unfit for habitation ..	71
(c) Number without recorded sanitary defects	112
Note—(a), (b) and (c) must, of course, add up to the figures given in (3).	
5. Action taken and results in regard to houses reported as unfit during 1913 and 1914, as follows :	For houses reported during
Number so reported	1913 1914
Closing Order made	11 14
Made fit without a Closing Order ..	none none
Still unfit, but no Closing Order made ..	none none
Demolished	2 none
Put in repair after Closing Order ..	5 4
Still closed at end of 1914	4 none
6. Action taken with regard to defective houses, but not sufficient to report as unfit, as follows :	For houses first examined during
Number so examined	1913 1914
Number with the defects remedied by the end of 1914	63 71
Number still defective at end of 1914 ..	44 48
Number not yet visited to ascertain if defects are remedied	13 23
7. Cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year	6 none
8. Parishes in which there is evidence of shortage of houses, and steps taken to remedy ..	2

Most parishes require some new cottages to replace old, comfortless ones. Twelve cottages are completed at Winscombe and six at Sandford. This will, it is thought, obviate the necessity of building cottages at Shipham, the adjoining village, for the present, as the work lies chiefly at Winscombe.

ANNUAL :: REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1914.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District
Council of Axbridge.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1914.

Letters and
Notices.

During the year I have written 452 letters, and served four notices under the Public Health Act, 1875.

Disinfection.

One hundred and twenty-two rooms in private houses and two schools have been fumigated after infectious cases, and articles of bedding, etc., properly disinfected and washed.

Water.

Ten samples of water taken from public and private supplies were submitted to the County Health Department for examination.

Sewers.

New sewers were laid at Cheddar, Congresbury, and Wedmore, and existing sewers repaired in several parishes.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses number 31. They are frequently inspected, found clean, and fairly well ventilated.

Slaughter-houses.

These number 32, all owned by private persons. They are well drained, periodically whitelined, and the skins and offal regularly removed.

New Houses.

During the year 55 new houses were erected, plans for all of which were previously submitted and approved by the Council. All have adequate water supplies, and suitable sanitary arrangements.

Overcrowding

Two cases have been dealt with.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Dairy work is a very large and important business in the district, and over 490 milksellers are registered. Many of the cowsheds are greatly improved, and cowkeepers realize the benefit of whitelining the sheds.

Factories and Workshops.

These—not including bakehouses—comprise six milk depots, two shirt factories, an iron foundry, a steam laundry, and several small laundries. All are frequently inspected.

Housing, etc., Act, 1909.

During the year 197 houses were inspected: of these 14 were reported as unfit for habitation, 71 with defects not sufficient to report as unfit, and 112 in good repair.

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. TEEK.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Axbridge.

BRISTOL :

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE BRISTOL TIMES AND MIRROR, LIMITED,
ST. STEPHEN STREET.

1915.